

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ERDA-05
AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08
FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04
TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 /133 W
-----311307Z 121619 /40

R 311108Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WUSHDC 2269

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0136

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OPEC, ENRG, QA, SA

SUBJ: QATARI OIL MINISTER CONTINUING OPEC CONSULTATIONS IN SAUDI
ARABIA

REF: DOHA 0116, DOHA 0117

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1. AS WIDELY REPORTED IN INTERNATIONAL MEDIA, FBIS, ETC.,
QATARI OIL MINISTER AND CURRENT OPEC PRESIDENT, SHAYKH ABDUL
AZIZ BIN KHALIFA AL THANI, TRAVELED TO RIYADH JAN 30 TO CONTINUE
HIS ROUND OF OPEC CONSULTATIONS. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS,
ABDUL AZIZ WAS RECEIVED BY KING KHALID, TO WHOM HE PRESENTED
MESSAGE FROM AMIR, AND ALSO MET WITH PRINCES FAHD AND SULTAN

AS WELL AS YAMANI AND VISITING UAE MINISTER SUWAYDI. DISCUSSIONS WITH YAMANI DESCRIBED AS CORDIAL AND WITH POSITIONS BEING "CLOSE."

2. IN STATEMENTS TO PRESS, ABDUL AZIZ REITERATED POINTS HE HAS BEEN MAKING ALL ALONG HIS ROUTE: (1) OPEC IS STRONG AND HEALTHY, AND WILL NOT FOUNDER ON TWO-TIER PRICE SYSTEM; (2) HOWEVER, SINGLE PRICE PREFERABLE AND "HUGE EFFORTS" BEING MADE TOWARD THAT END; (3) EXTRAORDINARY OPEC MEETING NOT NECESSARY AT PRESENT TIME, ALTHOUGH IT COULD BE CONVENED WHEN SITUATION AMONG OPEC MEMBERS IS CLARIFIED. ABDUL AZIZ EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT OPEC MEMBERS WOULD BE ABLE TO GET IT ALL TOGETHER AGAIN, BUT CAUTIONED THAT PREDICTIONS PREMATURE. HE SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT HIS VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, QATAR'S "OLDER SISTER", WOULD BE FRUITFUL, AND NOTED SAG WAS FOUNDING MEMBER OF OPEC AND FIRM SUPPORTER OF OPEC DECISIONS AND SOLIDARITY.

4. GOQ PETROLEUM MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED US THAT ABDUL AZIZ IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO DOHA JAN 31, AND INDICATED THAT HE SHORTLY WOULD BE OFF FOR UAE TO CONTINUE INTER-OPEC CONSULTATIONS. IN STATEMENT REPORTED BY QATAR NEWS AGENCY, UAE FONMIN SUWAIDI DESCRIBED HIS TALKS WITH ABDUL AZIZ AS USEFUL, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ABDUL AZIZ'S OPEC COUNTRY TOUR WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL AND WELCOMED HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO UAE.

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT 11 MAY HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON COMPROMISE SINGLE PRICE WHICH ABDUL AZIZ NOW TRYING TO SELL TO SAUDIS (DOHA 0117). WE WILL OBTAIN READING FROM HIM AS SOON AS HE COMES TO REST.

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